

Application No. 10/087,348
Amendment dated January 21, 2004
Reply to Final Office Action of October 21, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2-14 and 16-26 are pending in the application. The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-4, 10-15, and 21-26. The Examiner has objected to Claims 5-9 and 16-20.

Claim Rejections – U.S.C. §103

Applicants have cancelled Claims 1 and 15 without prejudice, rendering moot the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection thereof. Further, Applicants have amended Claims 2-4, 10-14, and 21-25 to depend from one of Claims 5 and 17, which the Examiner has indicated to be allowable. Applicants make these amendments without prejudice and explicitly reserve the right to pursue one or more continuing applications taking up the subject matter of the cancelled and previously presented claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 5-9 and 16-20. Applicants have rewritten Claims 5-9 and 16-20 in independent form to place these claims in condition for allowance. All of the remaining pending claims depend from one of Claims 5 and 17.

It is believed that the above represents a complete response to the Official Action and reconsideration is requested. Specifically, Applicants respectfully submit that the current application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

In the event Applicant has overlooked the need for an extension of time or payment of fee, Applicant hereby petitions therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 02-0385, BAKER & DANIELS.

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If any questions concerning this application should arise, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at 219/424-8000.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER & DANIELS



Michael D. Schwartz
Registration No. 44,326
Attorney for Applicant

MS/pas

Enclosure(s):

Postcard

BAKER & DANIELS

111 E. Wayne Street, Suite 800

Fort Wayne, IN 46802

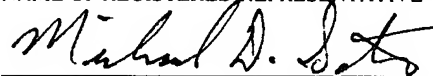
Telephone: 219-424-8000

Facsimile: 219-460-1700

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE
IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL
SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE
ADDRESSED TO: ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS,
WASHINGTON, DC 20231, on: January 21, 2004

MICHAEL D. SCHWARTZ, NO. 44,326
NAME OF REGISTERED REPRESENTATIVE



SIGNATURE

January 21, 2004
DATE